

The seven hundred and fifty-seventh Meeting of the Club was held in the Senior Common Room, South Side, Imperial College, London, S.W.7 on Tuesday, 15 January 1985 at 7 p.m. The attendance was 19 Members and 4 guests.

Members present were: B. GRAY (*Chairman*), P. J. BELMAN, Mrs DIANA BRADLEY, Dr R. A. CHEKE, P. J. CONDER, A. GIBBS, Revd. T. W. GLADWIN, D. GRIFFIN, P. A. D. HOLLOM, R. H. KETTLE, J. KING, Dr A. G. KNOX, Dr J. F. MONK, A. G. MOORE, J. G. PARKER, R. E. F. PEAL, N. H. F. STONE, S. N. STUART and R. L. WALKER.

Guests present were: D. BRADLEY, Dr JUDITH A. COLES, Mrs J. M. GLADWIN and T. PARMENTER.

Dr A. G. Knox gave an address on Crossbills, which was of wide interest and much appreciated.

## Winter status of birds on Grand Cayman Island

*by Alick G. Moore*

*Received 17 June 1984*

Since the observations of Olson *et al.* (1981) I have had the opportunity to make two Christmas visits to Grand Cayman Island and to observe many of the species they saw and other species about which there is little information during the winter period. Olson *et al.* were on Grand Cayman in November 1979 and report on 3 visits by Alexander Wetmore in January and February 1972 to 1975 and one in December 1971 by D. W. Johnston.

The habitat destruction on Grand Cayman is alarmingly rapid, and even in the 2 years between my visits, large tracts of both coastal and inland forests had been bulldozed for yet more condominiums, roadways and rubbish tips. The only evidence of interest in birds is a litter of cartridge cases, but interestingly the actual number of birds had not apparently decreased and I saw more species in 1983 than in 1981. Despite the varying status of birds described in the accounts with which I have made comparison, I do not believe that bird numbers or the number of species have decreased substantially in the past 15 years, though the habitat and cover must have changed dramatically.

I have assumed that the birds I observed were either residents or over-wintering and were not on passage, though it is likely that they included several casual and irregular winter visitors. My time was spent mostly in the mangrove areas of the southwest and northwest, and in the deciduous woodland and savannah scrub of the central parts. During my second visit I concentrated more on the coastline and inland water areas, such as there are remaining.

Dates of visits made by Johnston, Wetmore, Olson and myself are as follows, giving a fair cover of the midwinter period:- D. W. Johnston, December 1971; A. Wetmore, 26 Jan. -16 Feb. 1972; 8-23 Feb. 1973; 7-18 Feb. 1975; S. L. Olson *et al.* 14-22 Nov. 1979; A.G.M., 22-31 Dec. 1981 and 24 Dec-8 Jan. 1984.

In the following species accounts my own observations and comments on the winter status follow the findings of Johnston J.), Wetmore W.) and Olson *et al.* O.).

Species accounts follow order and nomenclature of Olson *et al.* as far as possible.

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

PIED-BILLED GREBE *Podilymbus podiceps*

J.) Common; W.) Common; O.) Observed.

Present on many inland waters. Flock of 40-50 on Meagre Bay Pond. Regular in Winter. .

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD *Fregata magnificens*

J.) Uncommon; W.) Small numbers, but regular; O.) Fairly common on occasions.

Present on west and south coasts at any time. Maxima 30, late afternoon. Regular in winter.

GREAT BLUE HERON *Ardea herodias*

J.) Uncommon; W.) Uncommon; O.) Common at South Sound.

Seen daily, up to 5, at South Sound and on reef. Occasionally on inland waters. Regular in winter in small numbers.

COMMON EGRET *Egretta alba*

J.) Uncommon; W.) Regular, 40+ on one occasion; O.) Not seen.

Generally uncommon, but occasional flocks of 20+. Probably not regular in winter.

SNOWY EGRET *Egretta thula*

J.) Very common; W.) Common; O.) Common.

Seen on any visit to inland waters, but small numbers only. Regular in winter.

LITTLE BLUE HERON *Egretta caerulea*

J.) Fairly common; W.) Fairly common; O.) Fairly common.

Adults and immatures seen on any visit to mangroves or inland waters. More rarely on shore. Regular in winter.

LOUISIANA HERON *Egretta tricolor*

J.) Fairly common; W.) Common; O.) Uncommon.

Seen regularly at mangroves and inland waters. Less frequently on shore line. Immatures and adults allowed a very close approach when catching small crabs in a flooded quarry — a dance-like activity, the legs used as springs and wings half-opened to jump quickly from one crab to the next. Regular in winter.

CATTLE EGRET *Egretta ibis*

J.) Common; W.) Common; O.) Common.

Seen in fields and on the airport at any time. Regular in winter.

GREEN HERON *Butorides virescens*

J.) Fairly common; W.) Common; O.) Common.

Regularly seen in mangroves and on more open waters, including shoreline. Regular in winter.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nyctanassa violacea*

J.) Uncommon; W.) Uncommon, none on third visit; O.) Not seen on G. Cayman.

Regularly seen on South Shore, up to 6 birds, catching sand crabs. Apparently regular in winter.

LEAST BITTERN *Ixobrychus exilis*

J.) One in March 1970; W.) One in February 1972; O.) Not seen.

Not seen by me, but 2-3 regularly reported at certain inland marshes. Apparently very low density resident in winter.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

J.) Singleton; W.) 2 Seen; O.) Not seen.

Not seen by me and no local reports. Probably only casual in winter.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors*

J.) Common; W.) Small numbers on each visit; O.) No comments.  
 Regularly observed on most inland waters in flocks of 5-10, but one flock of 45 was seen on flooded quarry near Newlands. Certainly a winter resident.

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana*

J.) Uncommon; W.) 2 in 1973 and 2 in 1975; O.) No comment.  
 5 on Colliers Pond and small flocks regularly reported there and occasionally on other inland waters. Apparently uncommon in winter.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

J.) Reported; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.  
 Single female at Colliers Pond and a pair at Newlands quarry. Possibly casual in winter.

LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis*

J.) Uncommon; W.) 2 in 1972; O.) No mention.  
 2 seen with flock of *Podilymbus podiceps* on Meagre Bay Pond. Possibly casual in winter.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

J.) No mention; W.) No mention; O.) 4 seen.  
 Not seen by me or reported. Probably casual in winter.

WEST INDIAN TREE DUCK *Dendrocygna arborea*

J.) Uncommon; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.  
 5 close to Meagre Bay Pond and 4 on mangrove fringe on extreme NW of the island. Regular, but low density, in winter.

MASKED DUCK *Oxyura dominica*

J.) No mention; W.) One in 1972; O.) No mention.  
 Not seen by me or reported. Accidental only.

TURKEY VULTURE *Cathartes aura*

J.) reported; W.) several in 1975; O.) One seen.  
 Not seen by me. Probably irregular in winter.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

J.) Uncommon; W.) No mention; O.) 3 sightings.  
 Observed on both visits on several occasions; 3 different birds in 1983. Probably only casual in winter.

MARSH HAWK *Circus cyaneus*

J.) Uncommon; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.  
 One seen and reported regularly from Barkers area. Probably only casual in winter.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

J.) Occasional; W.) Uncommon; O.) Observed.  
 Observed on both visits, over mangroves at dusk. Possibly regular in winter.

AMERICAN KESTREL *Falco sparverius*

J.) Uncommon; W.) Uncommon; O.) Observed.  
 Seen on 3 occasions on second visit, at least 2 different birds. Reports of regular sightings indicates probably regular in winter.

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

J.) No mention; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.  
 A single female seen in 1981. Surely only casual in winter.

SORA RAIL *Porzana carolina*

J.) 1 road-kill in December; W.) One in 1972; O.) No mention.  
 Not seen by me, but sufficient good habitat remains for residence to be a possibility.

COMMON GALLINULE *Gallinula chloropus*

J.) Common; W.) Common; O.) Common.

Seen on all mangrove pools and inland waters. Usually very wary as subject to predation by local stonethrowers. Regular in winter.

PURPLE GALLINULE *Porphyryla martinica*

J.) No winter record; W.) 2 birds, one a road-kill; O.) No comment.

Single birds seen in Barkers area. Regular sightings reported. Scarce but regular in winter.

AMERICAN COOT *Fulica americana*

J.) Very common; W.) Common; O.) Common.

Seen on many occasions including 11 at Meagre Bay Pond. Regular in winter.

KILLDEER *Charadrius vociferus*

J.) One in February; W.) 12 in 1973, one 1975; O.) No mention.

Single bird near Breakers in 1983. Probably irregular in winter.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER *Charadrius semipalmatus*

J.) Occasional; W.) Frequent; O.) No mention.

Not seen in 1981, but in 1983 good numbers seen on beaches and inland waters. Apparently regular in winter.

WILSON'S PLOVER *Charadrius wilsonia*

J.) Uncommon in fall; W.) One 1973; O.) No mention.

4 at Prospect Point, 2 on North Shore in 1983. Regular but scarce in winter.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

J.) Uncommon; W.) Very common; O.) Observed.

Seen any time on most beaches. Up to 40 at Prospect Point. Regular in winter.

RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

J.) Uncommon; W.) Common; O.) "a few".

Seen daily on rocky parts of shore and always near Georgetown dock. Regular in winter.

COMMON SNIPE *Capella gallinago*

J.) Uncommon; W.) One 1972; O.) One only.

Several flushed from marshy ground near South Sound, one in mangrove fringe and (in 1983) 3 on flooded scrape near Country Club. Scarce but regular in winter.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

J.) Not listed; W.) One 1972; O.) Not seen.

2 on South Sound shore regularly in 1981, one 1983. Probably only casual in winter.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER *Actitis macularia*

J.) Fairly common; W.) Uncommon; O.) 2 seen.

Seen fairly frequently in a variety of habitats — beaches, mangroves, scrapes. Regular but not common in winter.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER *Tringa solitaria*

J.) Uncommon; W.) No mention; O.) One seen.

One in 1983 in flooded scrape near Red Bay. Casual in winter.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa melanoleuca*

J.) Fairly common; W.) Regular, but not in 1975; O.) Occasional.

Single bird on shore in 1981, but several groups of 5-6 at inland waters in 1983. Regular in winter.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes*

J.) Fairly common; W.) Seen in 1972 and 1973; O.) No mention.

Seen inland on several occasions. Regular in winter.



WILLET *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*

J.) Uncommon; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.

A few observed singly in 1981 and 1983, mostly inland, and reported regularly. Regular in winter.

KNOT *Calidris canutus*

J.) One record; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.

Not seen by me. Presumably only casual in winter.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

J.) Rare in fall; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.

Single bird in 1983 at Prospect Point. Only casual in winter.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER *Calidris pusillus*

J.) No mention in winter; W.) Small flocks 1972 and 1973; O.) Not seen.

Not seen by me in 1981, but frequently observed in 1983, including a flock of c. 65 at pond behind Barkers. Probably regular in winter.

LEAST SANDPIPER *Calidris minutilla*

J.) Rare in spring and fall; W.) Observed in 1972 and 1973; O.) Not seen.

Not seen in 1981, but several individuals seen in 1983 at Prospect Point and on flooded scrape near Red Bay. Probably regular in winter.

BLACK-NECKED STILT *Himantopus mexicanus*

J.) Common; W.) Regularly seen, up to 12 in a flock; O.) Not seen.

Several flocks seen with first year juveniles. 5-10 regularly on South Sound marsh, 22 on Meagre Bay Pond and 50+ on Country Club pond at Spotts. Certainly regular in winter.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER *Limnodromus griseus*

J.) Uncommon; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.

Several small groups encountered, one a flock of 20+ at pond behind Barkers. Probably regular in winter.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

J.) Accidental; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.

Single second year bird at East Shore in 1983. Only casual in winter.

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*

J.) No mention; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.

Single birds, both juveniles, seen at South Sound in 1981 and 1983. Accidental in winter.

LAUGHING GULL *Larus atricilla*

J.) Uncommon; W.) Single birds on each visit; O.) No mention.

15-20 always along South Shore. Flock of 60+ following fishing vessel about 1 mile off shore. Regular in winter.

ROYAL TERN *Thalasseus maximus*

J.) Common; W.) Regularly seen, maximum 23 in a flock; O.) Observed.

Up to 30 always present at South Sound. Regular in winter. (This is the only tern mentioned by Olson *et al.* and by Wetmore. Johnston additionally records *Sterna hirundo* as uncommon, 7 Sep-18 Dec, but I judge this to represent late passage and not winter regularity.)WHITE-CROWNED PIGEON *Columba leucocephala*

J.) Common; W.) Common, particularly in 1975; O.) Infrequent.

On both visits I found it scarce. Single birds in mangroves and forest, and very wary. Regular in winter.

ZENAIDA DOVE *Zenaida aurita*

J.) Uncommon; W.) Common; O.) Very few seen.

Single birds in various habitats, but wary and difficult to observe. Regular in winter.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE *Zenaida asiatica*

J.) Common; W.) Uncommon; O.) 4-5 sightings.

Several semi-tame birds round the airport. Regular in winter.

COMMON GROUND DOVE *Columbina passerina*

J.) Common; W.) Common; O.) Common.

Seen regularly at roadsides, in gardens, cultivated areas, mangroves and forest edges. Regular in winter.

WHITE-BELLIED DOVE *Leptoptila jamaicensis*

J.) Uncommon; W.) Not mentioned; O.) Few seen.

3 walking in limestone forest; quite tame and reluctant to fly. Regular in winter.

CUBAN PARROT *Amazona leucocephala*

J.) Uncommon; W.) Occasional singletons and small flocks; O.) Common.

Common in flocks of 8-10 in central and eastern parts. One flock of 22. Regular in winter.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus americanus*

J.) No winter record; W.) No mention; O.) One found dead.

Not seen by me, but reported in winter (P. Bradley). Possibly casual in winter.

MANGROVE CUCKOO *Coccyzus minor*

J.) Uncommon in winter; W.) No mention; O.) Uncommon.

One near South Sound swamp, 2 others reported in scrub in western parts (P. Bradley). Uncommon, but regular in winter.

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI *Crotophaga ani*

J.) Common; W.) Common; O.) Common.

Abundant in a variety of habitats, particularly open scrub near cultivated areas. Regular in winter.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

J.) Very uncommon; W. One reported; O.) Not seen.

Not seen by me. Possibly a scarce winter resident.

BELTED KINGFISHER *Ceryle alcyon*

J.) Uncommon; W.) Common; O.) One seen repeatedly.

Regularly seen and heard on beach line, inland lakes and mangroves. Regular in winter.

FLICKER *Colaptes auratus*

J.) Fairly common; W.) Common; O.) Common.

Frequently heard in mangroves, but seen less frequently there and in more thinly wooded country. Regular in winter.

WEST INDIAN RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER *Melanerpes superciliaris*

J.) Fairly common; W.) Uncommon; one only in 1973, none in 1975; O.) Common.

Several birds seen in almond forest (*Terminalia catcappa*) and a pair resident by condominium at South Sound. Regular in winter.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER *Sphyrapicus varius*

J.) Uncommon; W.) several in 1972 and 1973; O.) Not seen.

One female in 1981 in black mangroves (*Avicennia nitida*). Uncommon, but probably regular in winter.

LOGGERHEAD KINGBIRD *Tyrannus caudifasciatus*

J.) Fairly common; W.) Common; O.) Common.

Frequently seen near mangroves and cultivated areas, heard calling regularly. Regular in winter.

LA SAGRA'S FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus sagrae*

J.) Fairly common; W.) Common; O.) Reasonably common.

Seen regularly in mangroves and limestone forest. Several young birds present. Very tame. Regular in winter.

EASTERN WOOD PEEWEE *Contopus virens*

J.) No winter record; W.) 2 seen in 1973; O.) Not seen.

2 in 1983, one in casuarinas (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) and a second in logwood forest (*Haematoxylon campechianum*). Probably regular in winter.

LEAST FLYCATCHER *Empidonax minimus*

J.) One report from March 1904; W.) One in 1972; O.) No mention.

Not seen by me and no local reports. Probably only casual in winter.

CARIBBEAN ELAENIA *Elaenia martinica*

J.) Very common; W.) Very common; O.) Tolerably common.

Seen frequently in mangroves and other forested areas, invariably in pairs and on occasion with young birds. Regular in winter.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

J.) No winter record; W.) Small flocks on each visit; O.) Good numbers.

Not seen by me on either visit. Irregular in winter; possibly Olson's records were late transients.

TREE SWALLOW *Tachycineta bicolor*

J.) No mention; W.) Up to 20 in 1973; O.) Not seen.

Not seen by me. Unlikely to be regular in winter.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

J.) No winter record; W.) Several in 1973; O.) Not seen.

4-6 seen over inland waters on 2 occasions in 1983. Probably not regular in winter.

MOCKINGBIRD *Mimus polyglottos*

J.) Very common; W.) Common; O.) Common.

Regularly seen in all cultivated areas, along roadsides and in woodlands. Frequently singing. Regular in winter.

CATBIRD *Dumetella carolinensis*

J.) Fairly common; W.) Uncommon; O.) Somewhat scarce.

Seen occasionally in deep undergrowth of buttonwood (*Conocarpus erecta*) or logwood, more frequently heard. Regular in winter.

BLUE-GREY GNATCATCHER *Poliophtila caerulea*

J.) Uncommon; W.) One in 1972; O.) No mention.

Not seen by me. Not regular in winter.

THICK-BILLED VIREO *Vireo crassirostris*

J.) Common; W.) No mention; O.) Scarce.

Uncommon in forest or mangroves. 4 seen together near South Sound in mangroves. Single birds in limestone forest. Uncommon but regular in winter.

WHITE-EYED VIREO *Vireo griseus*

J.) One seen; W.) Not mentioned; O.) Not mentioned.

One in buttonwood scrub 1981. One near North Bay in 1983. Casual in winter.

YUCATAN VIREO *Vireo magister*

J.) Common; W.) Common; O.) Relatively common.

Common in forests, less so in mangroves, but seen daily. Regular in winter.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER *Mniotilta varia*

J.) Fairly common; W.) One in 1973; O.) Common.

Regularly seen in forests, less common in mangroves. Regular in winter.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER *Limnothlypis swainsonii*  
 J.) 3 sightings; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.  
 Not seen by me, despite long efforts in suitable habitat. Possibly regular in winter but at very low density or only casually present.

WORM-EATING WARBLER *Helmitheros vermivorus*  
 J.) Uncommon; W.) One seen; O.) One caught.  
 Uncommon, but 4-6 sightings on each visit in several different habitats. Usually near water and low down. Regular in winter.

TENNESSEE WARBLER *Vermivora peregrina*  
 J.) Only in April; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.  
 2 seen in mangroves in 1981, and a group of 5 seen once and 2 separate singles, all in mangroves in 1983. Probably regular in winter.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora pinus*  
 J.) No mention; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.  
 3 seen, one in excellent spring plumage, in casuarinas near South Sound. Probably only casual in winter.

PARULA WARBLER *Parula americana*  
 J.) Fairly common; W.) Uncommon; O.) Scattered individuals.  
 Regularly observed in woodlands and mangrove edges. Regular in winter.

YELLOW WARBLER *Dendroica petechia*  
 J.) Very common; W.) Infrequently observed; O.) Scarce.  
 Seen in good numbers on every visit to mangroves; easily whistled out. Several birds in very close to full breeding plumage. Regular in winter.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Dendroica magnolia*  
 J.) Rare; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.  
 2 seen, 1 in mangrove, 1 in roadside scrub, both in 1981. Not seen in 1983. Casual in winter.

CAPE MAY WARBLER *Dendroica tigrina*  
 J.) Uncommon; W.) No mention; O.) Not common.  
 Regularly seen in mangroves and logwood scrub on both visits. One male in good spring plumage. Regular in winter.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER *Dendroica caerulescens*  
 J.) Uncommon; W.) No mention; O.) Not seen.  
 2 in roadside ditch in 1981. Not seen in 1983. Probably regular, though uncommon, in winter.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER *Dendroica virens*  
 J.) Uncommon; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.  
 2 in casuarinas, 2 in mangroves, in 1981; more frequent in 1983, in both mangroves and scrub. Regular in winter.

MYRTLE WARBLER *Dendroica coronata*  
 J.) Formerly common in winter, not recorded in recent years; W.) Common in 1972 only; O.) Not seen.

2 birds in wet scrub by mangroves in 1983. Probably now only casual in winter.  
 CERULEAN WARBLER *Dendroica caerulea*  
 J.) One summer record only; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.  
 One seen in almond forest near Prospect Point in 1981. Undoubtedly only casual in winter.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER *Dendroica dominica*  
 J.) Uncommon; W.) Uncommon; O.) One bird.  
 3 in casuarinas near Rugby pitch in 1981. One in same place in 1983. Probably regular in winter.



PRAIRIE WARBLER *Dendroica discolor*

J.) Uncommon; W.) One only in 1972; O.) Not common.

Fairly frequently seen in Red Birch forest (*Bursera simaruba*) on both visits; also in mangroves in 1983. Regular in winter.

VITELLINE WARBLER *Dendroica vitellinus*

J.) Fairly common; W.) 2 only, in 1972; O.) Common.

Frequently seen, particularly in limestone forest with red birch and logwood. Generally tame and curious and often heard calling. Regular in winter.

PALM WARBLER *Dendroica palmarum*

J.) Very common; W.) Very common; O.) Very common.

The most abundant bird on the island. Found almost everywhere, except thick dry forest. Regular in winter.

OVENBIRD *Seiurus aurocapillus*

J.) Uncommon; W.) One in 1973; O.) At least 2 seen.

4 by roadside and in casuarinas up to 10m above ground. In 1983 only one seen, in red birch. Regular in winter.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH *Seiurus noveboracensis*

J.) Uncommon; W.) 2 in 1972; O.) 4 birds.

Not seen in 1981, but several singly on mangrove fringe in 1983. Regular in winter.

KENTUCKY WARBLER *Oporornis formosus*

J.) One record; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.

Not seen by me and not reported locally. Only casual in winter.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT *Geothlypis trichas*

J.) Common; W.) One in 1972; O.) Infrequent.

Seen on many occasions, usually low down near water, but also in buttonwood scrub. Tame and curious and easily whistled out. Regular in winter.

AMERICAN REDSTART *Setophaga ruticilla*

J.) Fairly common; W.) Uncommon; O.) Common.

Seen regularly on every visit to mangroves. Usually females. Regular in winter.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT *Icteria virens*

J.) No mention; W.) One seen clearly; O.) Not seen.

Not seen by me, but I agree with Olson *et al.* that Wetmore would be unlikely to mistake this bird, although he makes no mention of this observation in his journal notes. Surely only a vagrant.

BANANAQUIT *Coereba flaveola*

J.) Abundant; W.) Abundant; O.) Abundant.

Very common in cultivated areas, woodlands and mangroves. Several family groups observed. Regular in winter.

STRIPE-HEADED TANAGER *Spindalis zena*

J.) Fairly common; W.) Uncommon O.) Fairly common in flocks.

Regularly seen on both visits, some in small flocks, but more often in company of other species. Regular in winter.

SUMMER TANAGER *Piranga rubra*

J.) Rare transient; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.

2 seen in 1981 in almond forest. Not seen in 1983. Probably only casual in winter.

GREATER ANTILLEAN GRACKLE *Quiscalus niger*

J.) Common; W.) Very common; O.) Common.

Very common in mangroves, less so in cultivated areas. Tame and curious. Regular in winter.

YELLOW-FACED GRASSQUIT *Tiariis olivacea*

J.) Common; W.) Common; O.) Occasionally seen.  
Common by roadsides and in scrub. Regular in winter.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

J.) Rare; W.) No mention; O.) Only seen on Cayman Brac.  
One female seen in logwood in 1983. Probably regular but rare in winter.

INDIGO BUNTING *Passerina cyanea*

J.) Uncommon; W.) 2 only; O.) One seen.  
Not seen in 1981, but several in 1983 in changing plumage, on fringe of cultivation, and several reported locally. Apparently regular in winter.

CUBAN BULLFINCH *Melopyrrha nigra*

J.) Common; W.) Uncommon; O.) Common.  
Seen frequently in various types of undergrowth. Tame but silent. Regular in winter.

SAVANNAH SPARROW *Passerculus sandwichensis*

J.) 2 records; W.) Single birds flushed; O.) Not seen.  
Not seen by me. Probably irregular but uncommon in winter.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW *Ammodramus savannarum*

J.) Fairly common; W.) No mention; O.) No mention.  
2 in savannah scrub in 1983, but reported regularly (P. Bradley). Apparently regular in winter.

*Acknowledgements.* I am particularly grateful to Jane and Ian Morrison for providing the opportunity to conduct these observations, to Patricia Bradley for her help and excellent local knowledge, and to the Smithsonian Institution for making available sight of Alexander Wetmore's journal notes and species accounts.

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Address. A. G. Moore, 34 Clarendon Gardens, London, W.9. England.

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## Notes on coastal birds of Puerto Melo, Chubut, Argentina

by Bradley C. Livezey, Philip S. Humphrey,  
& Max C. Thompson

Received 27 June 1984

Recent ornithological discoveries in coastal areas of the Province of Chubut, Argentina, demonstrate that much remains to be learned about the distributions of birds in this zoogeographically important region. These finds include new breeding localities for several littoral species (Zapata 1965, Olrog 1967, Navas